

REMARKS:

In the foregoing amendments, applicant's specification was amended to correct a typographical error and to better describe that the clearances S2 and S3 as shown, for example, in figure 3 of the present application are "clear spaces," or in other words, are spaces that are clear from obstruction. Claims 3 and 7 were amended to better defined applicant's invention, which included defining that a clear space (S2) is arranged between the upper and lower guide plates. Claim 6 was amended to better define a widthwise clear space (S3) between a side guide plate arranged on the track and a side guide plate secured on the idler guide unit.

The Official action objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and in the intervening claims. Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 were rejected over prior art and remain pending in the application at this time.

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Official action set forth two positions.

In claim 6, the Official action stated that applicant appears to be blending a method step (regulating the width by using shims of varying

thickness) in an apparatus claim. The Official action continued that claim 6 recites "shims of varying thickness," but for a given structure only one set of thicknesses of shim would be used. The Official action concluded that the claim is unclear because it recites alternative structure that would not be used together, but that is claimed in a combination. Initially, applicant respectfully submits that it is not necessarily improper for a claim to include both method and product limitations. If that is the applicant's invention, she should be able to claim it. In any event, in the foregoing amendments the alternative language was removed by defining the use of a single shim, namely, "a shim selected from a group of shims of varying thickness."

With respect to claim 7, the Official action stated that it is unclear whether the tapering block is part of the idler guide unit or not. In the foregoing amendments, claim 7 was amended to positively define that the tapering block is part of the idler guide unit.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6-8 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 2,315,421 of Heaslet. This rejection is set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Official action. The teachings of Heaslet were

discussed and distinguished from applicant's claimed invention in the response filed on August 12, 2005, which remarks are incorporated herein by reference.

In the rejection of claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Heaslet, the outstanding Official action apparently interpreted the distance between tapered legs 47 and axle boxing 43, which is filled with horizontal leg 26, as equivalent to the presently claimed clearance. Applicant respectfully submits that this may not be a correct interpretation or understanding of the word "clearance." However, in order to more precisely define the present invention, in the foregoing amendments, the word "clearance" was replaced with "clear space" in claims 3 and 7. Since the teachings of Heaslet require the area between tapered legs 47 and axle boxing 43 is filled with horizontal leg 26, these teachings cannot contemplate or suggest a clear space as required in claims 3 and 7. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that the invention defined in these claims is patently distinguishable from the teachings of Heaslet. For such reasons, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

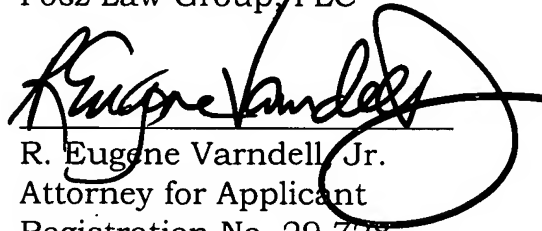
Claims 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Heaslet in view of U.S. patent No. 3,841,715 of Comer *et al.* (Comer). This rejection appears on page 3 of the Official action. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is patently distinguishable from the teachings of Heaslet and Comer for at least the following reasons.

In the rejection of claim 6, it appears that the Official action is equating the distance between idler 28 and idler guide unit 18 of Comer, which is necessarily filled with the thrust bearing 32 and seal 34, to the presently claimed "width clearance." For reasons similar to those set forth above for claims 3 and 7, claim 6 was amended above by changing the definition of a "width clearance" to a "widthwise clear space." Since the teachings of Comer necessarily require that the area between idler 28 and idler guide unit 18 is filled with the thrust bearing 32 and seal 34, this area cannot be a "widthwise clear space," as required in present claim 6. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

For all the foregoing reasons, a formal allowance of claims 3, 4 and 6-8, together with allowable claim 5, is respectfully requested. The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Official action mailed November 3, 2005. While it is believed that all the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, should the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
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